



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Pre-kindergarten Enhancement and Expansion Program Assistance Grants Announced

Washington, DC -- The Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) today announced it is now accepting applications for the Pre-kindergarten Enhancement and Expansion Program Assistance Grants. These grants, funded through the Pre-K Enhancement and Expansion Act of 2008, provide support for existing Pre-k programs to enhance their program and meet the high-quality standards. These grants will also support OSSE's goal of ensuring that all District of Columbia children will be ready for school and that all District residents receive an excellent education for success in the 21st century. Applications are due no later than April 19, 2010.

OSSE's Division of Early Childhood Education (ECE) will manage and administer the Program Assistance grants which will be available beginning April 2010. Each grant is awarded for two years. The individual grant amounts awarded will be up to \$25,000. The grant program will be subject to funding availability. Priority shall be given to those applicants that serve children in Wards 5, 7 and 8.

All interested public schools with a Pre-k program (DC Public Schools and public charter schools) and early childhood education programs operated by non-profit entities, faith-based organizations, or organizations that participate in federally funded or District funded early childhood programs, including the child care subsidy program funded by the federal Child Care Development Fund to submit an application, are encouraged to apply. The Pre-k Program Assistance Grants will support these programs in meeting high-quality standards.

The grants may support the following activities:

- Accreditation facilitation and training
- Instructional support and materials
- Age-appropriate curriculum and related training
- Facilities improvement
- Support for development of family engagement programs

The application will be available on March 4, 2010. Applications may be obtained from the Office of Partnerships and Grant Services Web site (<http://opgs.dc.gov>) and the Office of the State Superintendent of Education Web site (<http://osse.dc.gov>). Applications may also be obtained from Kesha Scrivner, Program Assistant, 717 14th Street, NW, 8th Floor, Washington, DC 20005 or by phone at (202) 727-3557.

OSSE will hold a Pre-Application Conference on Wednesday March 10, 2010, from 1:00 to 3:00 pm at 717 14th Street, NW, 8th Floor Conference Room, Washington, DC 20005. For preparation purposes, interested parties planning to attend should please RSVP to Kesha Scrivner at (202) 727-3557 or kesha.scrivner@dc.gov.

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